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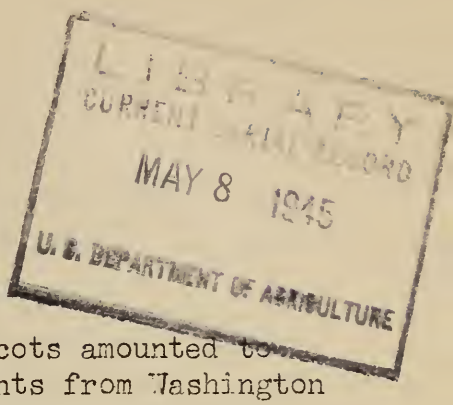

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week ending July 14, 1944

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Apricots: At the close of the week carlot shipments of apricots amounted to 1114 cars, twice that of last year to the same time. Shipments from Washington have reached as high as 66 cars daily. In California, the peak for the past week was 14 cars in one day. In addition to this, the truck movement has been heavy, reaching as much as 23,445 lugs in one day on the Los Angeles market. The wholesale markets of the West closed the week with top prices quoted in the Southwest from 7 cents to 9 cents per pound, and in the Northwest up to 13 cents per pound for good quality 'cots. The top daily average this week on the New York auction was $3.05 per lug of 22 pounds for Tiltons.

Because of heavily loaded trees, in areas where thinning could not be done through lack of labor, apricots are running heavily to small sizes.

Grapes: Moving out of California in carload lots since June 20th, grapes have reached total shipments of 394 cars on the 14th, compared with 390 cars by the same date last year. Arizona by this time last year had shipped out 50 cars of grapes, while this year only three cars have been shipped from there. Most of the carloads have been express shipments of the early varieties of Thompson Seedless, Malaga and Red Malaga grapes.

Forecasts indicate that the Arizona grape crop may be about 7 percent above that for 1943. In California, the table grape crop may be as much as 4 percent below that of last year, approximately 82 percent of normal.

Prices on the New York auction are holding at an average of $7.00 per lug on Thompson Seedless. Red Malagas brought an average of $8.37. Wholesale prices on Pacific Coast markets ranged from 18 cents in Los Angeles to 27 cents per pound for Thompson Seedless in San Francisco and Portland, and 31 cents in Seattle. These prices were up about one cent over the beginning of the week.

Cherries: Carlot shipments of cherries out of Western Region states now total 1727 cars, compared with the 1943 total of 1851 cars to the same date. Idaho last year at this time had shipped 98 cars, while this year growers there have shipped 125 cars. Washington has averaged 16 cars daily the past week.

Wholesale prices on the western markets closed the week at 25 cents in Seattle and San Francisco, 22 cents in Portland and 24 cents in Los Angeles on Bings and Lamberts of good quality.

Total 1944 production of cherries in the Western Region states is now estimated at 70,150 tons of the sweet varieties, and 10,590 tons of sour cherries.

Peaches: Total carlot movement of peaches in the United States this week was 1939 cars, bringing the total for the season to 4989 cars, compared with 2374 cars for last year to the same date. Out of this season's shipments, California has contributed 322 cars and Georgia 3717 cars.

(Over)

Top wholesale prices per lug, reported on western markets Friday were as follows:

	Seattle:	Portland:	San Francisco :	Los Angeles
Elberta	$2.50	$2.85	$1.50	$1.50 (lug)
Golden Jubilee	$3.00	$3.00	$1.75 (lug)	4¢ per lb.

Cantaloups: Daily carlot movement of cantaloups out of the Imperial Valley, California, district have been decreasing in number. However, those out of Arizona have been increasing. The total for the season from the two states is 7918 cars.

Prices fob Phoenix closed the week at $2.25 to $2.50 for Jumbo sizes of 36 to 45 per crate, about 25 cents under the first of the week. Wholesale prices on the Pacific Coast ranged from $3.00 in Los Angeles and $3.75 in San Francisco to $4.50 and $5.00 in Portland and Seattle.

Lettuce: Friday lettuce prices, fob Salinas, on crates of 4 to 5 dozen heads were quoted at mostly $1.50 per crate. This was slightly under the prices for Monday which were quoted as $1.50 to $1.75, and from 25 cents to 50 cents per crate below the price for July 1st. Lettuce is moving out of the Salinas-Watsonville district at the rate of 197 cars per day. These shipments are in addition to approximately 20 cars daily by truck to Los Angeles, San Francisco and nearby local markets.

Onions: July first estimates indicate that California may have an early summer onion crop of 712,000 sacks (100 lbs. each) and Washington 196,000 sacks, compared with 242,000 sacks and 150,000 sacks, respectively, for 1943. Total early summer crop for the United States is estimated at 1,387,000 sacks for 1944. Last year's crop for the U. S. was 761,000 sacks.

Fob price at Phoenix, Arizona, on the 14th for White Wax was $1.75 and for Yellow Bermuda $1.50 per 50-pound bag of medium-sized onions. Wholesale prices on Pacific Coast markets were quoted as $1.85 to $2.00 in San Francisco, $1.90 to $2.25 in Seattle and $1.25 to $1.50 in Los Angeles, for White Wax.

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter: For the week ending July 11, production of butter in the United States showed a decline of about 5 percent from the previous week and 11 percent less than the same week a year ago. In the western states, production was about 4 percent under the previous week and about equal to that of the same week last year. Civilian demand, in face of the July set-aside, has drawn heavily on reserves to the point where retailers are, in some instances, continuing to limit quantities to consumers. Some distributors are resticting sales to retailers. This condition is less pronounced in the Northwest, particularly in Washington, where butter receipts are considered heavy.

Eggs: Wholesale prices of Grade A Large eggs on the Pacific Coast markets have advanced from last week's top range of 39 to 43½ cents per dozen to a range of 39 to 46 cents per dozen. Receipts of large sizes have continued to decrease. Smaller sizes are still causing some difficulty in that they are not being cleared readily from the floors and consumer demand is slow for those sizes.

Turkeys: The WFA announced a turkey set-aside order effective July 17. Under this order, 100 percent of the turkeys produced and marketed in designated areas are to be set aside until the quantity needed for government requirements is obtained. The order is to operate similarly to the one of last year. All Western Region states come under the order.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat: With a record wheat crop and a near record crop for both corn and oats in view, it appears likely that grain supplies for 1944 will be larger than average but much smaller than those for the last two years.

Harvest in the Pacific Northwest is now under way. In the Missouri, Eastern Kansas and Southern Plains area it is almost completed. In a portion of Nebraska and Kansas, stem rust is continuing to be a menace to a final good crop. Most of the areas, however, are sufficiently matured to be beyond damage from rust.

Price reported for ordinary protein Hard Red Winter wheat at Portland was $1.47 per bushel, basis No. 1 grade, 15-day shipment coast delivery. Soft White was $1.47 and Western Red $1.48 per bushel.

Barley: Indications as of the first of July pointed to a barley crop of 7,243,464 tons (301,811,000 bushels) for the United States, about 6 percent less than the 1943 crop but 19 percent above the ten-year average of 6,152,400 tons. The indicated crop for California is 875,472 tons and for Arizona 93,936 tons. Nevada and Utah expect crops of 18,768 tons and 154,438 tons respectively.

Prices quoted at the close of the week were: No. 2 Bright Western testing 46 lb., $2.40 to $2.42½ per 100 lbs. in San Francisco; $2.52 to $2.52½ in Los Angeles. No. 2 and No. 3 barley in Kansas City was quoted at $2.453/8 per 100 lbs.

Beans: 1944 bean production for the states of California, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming is estimated at 10,530,000 bags. The 1943 production from these states was 12,144,000 bags. Estimated total for the United States is 19,358,000 bags, approximately 12 percent below the 1943 crop.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle: Receipts of cattle this past week on the twelve principal markets were 214,000 head, almost 45 percent greater than for the week previous. Receipts on Western markets were approximately 25 percent larger than the previous week. Top prices paid this past week on the Western markets for good steers were $14.50 in Ogden, $16.10 in Los Angeles, $16.00 in San Francisco and $16.25 in Portland.

Hogs: With receipts of 452,000 head of hogs for the past week, the twelve principal markets made a gain of 35 percent over the previous week. Western markets showed an increase of only about 4 percent over the previous week, and prices showed a steady increase to about 25 cents over the previous week.

Sheep: Sheep receipts were also up about 30 percent above the previous week. In four of the principal western markets, 92,442 head of sheep were received. The total for the twelve principal markets was 227,200 head. Wholesale prices dropped as much as 23 cents on all grades as a result.

(Over)

COTTON.

July estimates indicate the cotton acreage in California to be 303,000 acres, and that for Arizona 147,000 acres. All but 900 acres of the California total is contained in the San Joaquin Valley counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and Tulare. The U. S. total for 1944 is set at 20,472,000 acres, which is 93 percent of the 1943 acreage and 73 percent of the 1934-43 average.